

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for communicating between a first communication system and a second communication system, the method comprising:

establishing a communication link between the first communication  
5 system and the second communication system;

determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication  
between the first communication system and the second communication system; and  
displaying the determined amount of latency.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining at least one amount of latency  
10 affecting communication between the first communication system and the second  
communication system comprises:

sending a first signal from the first communication system to the second  
communication system, the first signal requiring an immediate response from the second  
communication system, and

15 comparing a time at which the first signal is sent and a time at which the  
response is received by the first communication system.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining at least one amount of latency  
affecting communication between the first communication system and the second  
communication system comprises:

20 sending a first signal from the first communication system to the second  
communication system, the first signal requiring a response from the second  
communication system, the response comprising information about a time at which the  
first signal is received by the second communication system and a time at which the  
response is sent by the second communication system,

25 comparing the time at which the signal is sent by the first communication  
system and the time at which the response is received by the first communication system  
to determine a first difference,

30 comparing the time at which the first signal is received by the second  
communication system and the time at which the response is sent by the second  
communication system to determine a second difference, and

comparing the first and second differences to determine the at least one amount of latency.

4. A method for communicating between a first communication system and a second communication system, the method comprising:

35                establishing a communication link between the first communication system and the second communication system;

                 determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the second communication system; and

                 comparing the determined amount of latency with a required maximum  
40                amount of latency.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising comparing the determined amount of latency with a required maximum latency and if the determined amount of latency is lower than the required maximum latency, compensating for the determined amount of latency.

45                6. The method of claim 4, wherein determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the second communication system comprises:

                 sending a first signal from the first communication system to the second communication system, the first signal requiring an immediate response from the second  
50                communication system, and

                 comparing a time at which the first signal is sent and a time at which the response is received by the first communication system.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the second  
55                communication system comprises:

                 sending a first signal from the first communication system to the second communication system, the first signal requiring a response from the second communication system, the response comprising information about a time at which the first signal is received by the second communication system and a time at which the  
60                response is sent by the second communication system,

comparing the time at which the signal is sent by the first communication system and the time at which the response is received by the first communication system to determine a first difference,

65 comparing the time at which the first signal is received by the second communication system and the time at which the response is sent by the second communication system to determine a second difference, and

comparing the first and second differences to determine the at least one amount of latency.

8. A method for communicating between a first communication system and a  
70 second communication system, the method comprising:

establishing a communication link between the first communication system and the second communication system;

determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the second communication system; and

75 compensating for the determined amount of latency.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising comparing the determined amount of latency with a required maximum latency and if the determined amount of latency is lower than the required maximum latency, compensating for the determined amount of latency.

80 10. The method of claim 8, wherein determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the second communication system comprises:

85 sending a first signal from the first communication system to the second communication system, the first signal requiring an immediate response from the second communication system, and

comparing a time at which the first signal is sent and a time at which the response is received by the first communication system.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the second  
90 communication system comprises:

95        sending a first signal from the first communication system to the second communication system, the first signal requiring a response from the second communication system, the response comprising information about a time at which the first signal is received by the second communication system and a time at which the response is sent by the second communication system,

             comparing the time at which the signal is sent by the first communication system and the time at which the response is received by the first communication system to determine a first difference,

100        comparing the time at which the first signal is received by the second communication system and the time at which the response is sent by the second communication system to determine a second difference, and

             comparing the first and second differences to determine the at least one amount of latency.

105        12. A method for communicating between a first communication system, a second communication system and a third communication system, the method comprising:

             establishing a communication link between the first communication system and the third communication system,

110        determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the third communication system,

             establishing a communication link between the second communication system and the third communication system, and

             determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the second communication system and the third communication system.

115        13. The method of claim 12, further comprising comparing both the amount of latency affecting communication between the first and third communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication system with a required maximum latency.

120        14. The method of claim 12, further comprising compensating for a difference between the amount of latency affecting communication between the first and third

communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication system.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising comparing the amount of latency affecting communication between the first and third communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication systems with a required maximum latency and if each of the amount of latency affecting communication between the first and third communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication system is lower than the required amount of latency, compensating for the difference between the amount of latency affecting communication between the first and third communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication system.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between either the first and the third communication systems or the second and third communication systems comprises:

sending a first signal from one of the two communication systems to the other one of the two communication systems, the first signal requiring an immediate response from the other one of the two communication systems, and

comparing the time at which the first signal is sent by the one of the two communication systems and the time at which the response is received by the one of the two communication systems.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between either the first and the third communication systems or the second and third communication systems comprises:

sending a first signal from one of the two communication systems to the other one of the two communication systems, the first signal requiring a response from the other one of the two communication systems, the response comprising the time at which the first signal is received by the other one of the two communication system and the time at which the response is sent by the other one of the two communication system,

comparing the time at which the first signal is sent and the time at which the response is received to determine a first difference,

comparing the time at which the first signal is received and the time at which the response is sent to determine a second difference, and comparing the first and second differences.

155           18. A device for communicating between a first communication system and a second communication system, the device comprising:

the first communication system that establishes a communication link with the second communication system;

160           a latency determination device coupled to the first communication system, that determines at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the second communication system; and

an user interface coupled to the latency determination device, that displays the determined amount of latency.

165           19. A device for communicating between a first communication system and a second communication system, the device comprising:

the first communication system that establishes a communication link with the second communication system; and

170           a latency determination device coupled to the first communication system, that determines at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the second communication system, wherein the latency determination device compares the determined amount of latency with a required maximum amount of latency.

175           20. The device of claim 19, wherein the latency determination device compares the determined amount of latency with a required maximum latency and if the determined amount of latency is lower than the required maximum latency, the latency determination device compensates for the determined amount of latency.

21. A device for communicating between a first communication system and a second communication system, the device comprising:

180           the first communication system that establishes a communication link with the second communication system;

a latency determination device coupled to the first communication system, that determines at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first

communication system and the second communication system, wherein the latency determination device compensates for the determined amount of latency.

185           22. A device for communicating between a first communication system, a second communication system and a third communication system, the device comprising:

                  the third communication system that establishes a communication link with the first communication system and a communication link with the second communication system,

190                   a latency determination device that determines at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the first communication system and the third communication system and at least one amount of latency affecting communication between the second communication system and the third communication system.

195           23. The device of claim 22, wherein the latency determination device compares both the amount of latency affecting communication between the first and third communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication system with a required maximum latency.

200           24. The device of claim 22, wherein the latency determination device compensates for a difference between the amount of latency affecting communication between the first and third communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication system.

205           25. The device of claim 22, wherein the latency determination device compares both the amount of latency affecting communication between the first and third communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication systems with a required maximum latency and if each of the amount of latency affecting communication between the first and third communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication system is lower than the required amount of latency, the latency determination device compensates for the difference between the amount of  
210           latency affecting communication between the first and third communication systems and the amount of latency affecting communication between the second and third communication system.

26. The device of claim 22, wherein for determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between either the first and the third communication systems or the second and third communication systems:

the third communication system sends a first signal to the other communication system, the first signal requiring an immediate response from the other communication system;

the third communication system receives the response; and

the latency determination device compares the time at which the first signal is sent and the time at which the response is received.

27. The device of claim 22, wherein for determining at least one amount of latency affecting communication between either the first and the third communication systems or the second and third communication systems:

the third communication system sends a first signal to the other communication system, the first signal requiring a response from the other communication system, the response comprising the time at which the first signal is received by the other communication system and the time at which the response is sent by the other communication system;

the third communication system receives the response;

the latency determination device compares the time at which the first signal is sent and the time at which the response is received to determine a first difference;

the latency determination device compares the time at which the first signal is received and the time at which the response is sent to determine a second difference; and

the latency determination device compares the first and second differences.